



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

VIPER UPDATE:  
**FIRST VIPER CASE RESULTS IN GUILTY PLEA**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today for possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and illegally possessing a firearm. Today's guilty plea, Graves said, stems from the first case charged under VIPER, a new joint initiative with the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department to combat violent crime in Kansas City, Mo.

**Elijah I. Jones**, 23, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to the charges contained in a May 19, 2005, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty, **Jones** admitted that he possessed with intent to distribute crack cocaine on May 6, 2005, in Jackson County, Mo. **Jones** also admitted that he possessed a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. **Jones** possessed a Norinco MAK-90 semi-automatic rifle on May 6, 2003, in Jackson County.

**Jones** was initially arrested as law enforcement officers executed a search warrant on his residence on May 6, 2003. At the time law enforcement officers approached the home, **Jones** was in a vehicle that was parked at the residence. Upon approaching the vehicle and residence, law enforcement officers ordered **Jones** and others on the ground and they complied. Subsequently, the officers then conducted a search of the vehicle, where they located in plain view the AK-47 style firearm and a clear plastic bag containing crack cocaine.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Jones** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$1 million.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles E. Ambrose, Jr. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Marshal's Service.

VIPER – Violent Incident Proactive Enterprise Response – is a joint initiative between the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Kansas City Police Department and federal law enforcement designed to proactively combat violent crime in Kansas City by targeting suspected gang members, drug traffickers and other violent criminals brought to the attention of law enforcement officers as a result of a KCPD homicide investigation. The VIPER initiative was launched in April.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)